

ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

Published under the auspices of the: World Council of Churches · International Missionary Council
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations · World Young Women's Christian Association
World's Student Christian Federation · World Council of Christian Education · United Bible Societies

EDITOR: JOHN GARRETT · 17 ROUTE DE MALAGNOU · GENEVA · SWITZERLAND
TEL. 36 71 30 · CABLES OIKOUMENE
U.S. ENQUIRIES: 156 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 10, N. Y., USA

No. 21/25th Year

May 30th, 1958

On Other Pages

Basel Mission Groups Join Church of South India.	Page 2
India's Supreme Court Suspends Judgment on Education Bill.	Page 2
"No Attack on DRC Intended" Says Archbishop de Blank	Page 3
Southern Baptists Challenged on Race	Page 3
Slow Progress of Canadian Church Union Criticised.	Page 4
US Council Asks Investigation of Bombing	Page 4

A Special Report

Russian Church Celebrates Restoration of Moscow Patriarchate	Page 8
--	--------

Roman Catholics Told to Leave Protestant Schools in Philippines

(Manila) - Following earlier orders to Philippine Roman Catholics to leave the YMCA (see EPS No. 18), Archbishop Jose Maria Cuenco of Iloilo City has declared that from May 31 onward all Roman Catholic YMCA supporters and students in Protestant institutions within his area will be excommunicated.

The excommunication will apply to parents or guardians as well as the students themselves. The archbishop stressed that Roman Catholics must educate their children according to the Canon Law of their own church.

The ruling will affect the Central Philippine University (an American Baptist institution) and the Iloilo Mission Hospital School of Nursing within the archbishop's area. If the ruling is extended to other parts of the Philippines, there are expected to be considerable repercussions within the Roman Catholic church because hundreds of Catholic students are enrolled in Protestant institutions and many more support the YMCA and YWCA.

E.P.S., Geneva

Waldensian Church Denies Meddling in Politics

(Rome) - The Italian Waldensian Church authorities have vigorously denied allegations in sections of the Catholic press of Italy that they instructed their members how to vote in the Italian elections held on May 25.

The denial was issued on behalf of the "Tavola", central administrative authority of the Waldensians, after some Roman Catholic papers had reported that the Waldensian authorities, described as "the Waldensian episcopal conference", had "addressed to all their church members in Italy a direct suggestion that they should vote for candidates on the Radical and Republican lists" (secular-liberal and anticlerical). The Roman Catholic press reports that the Waldensian Church recognised in these parties' programmes "points of agreement with the church's religious belief".

It has been assumed in Waldensian circles that the news items were intended as a counter-move following the bad reception given by sections of the Italian population to an appeal from the Roman Catholic bishops to vote for the pro-Catholic Christian Democratic candidates in the elections.

In its denial, the Waldensian Church announced that the news was "utterly without foundation and absolutely contrary to the truth". The Waldensian authorities say that "in consequence it can only be attributed to the misleading inventions of those who wrote and sent out the report. The Waldensian Church of Italy has no wish to intervene in any way, directly or indirectly, in political conflicts at election time", continues the statement. "The reason is that, by contrast with the Roman Catholic Church, it gives its members, who are aware of their Christian responsibility, complete liberty to make up their minds as to how they will vote."

E.P.S., Geneva

Basel Mission Groups Join Church of South India

(Madras) - Two Christian communities in the Marathi-speaking area of the Swiss-founded Basel Mission Church joined the Church of South India at Pentecost, May 25.

When the Church of South India was formed in 1947 by the union of former Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches, the Malabar Christians of the Basel Mission joined, but Kanarese and Marathi groups reserved their decision.

Adherence of the two new groups to the CSI places them under the jurisdiction of the diocesan bishop, but they will, as in the case of other local areas, retain the right to use existing forms of local church government and liturgy.

E.P.S., Geneva

India's Supreme Court Suspends Judgment on Education Bill

(New Delhi) - The Indian Supreme Court has suspended judgment on the legality of the bill introduced by the Communist government of the highly literate South Indian state of Kerala to control state aid to schools run by minority groups (see EPS No. 19). Final decision on the bill, which has been strongly contested by Roman Catholic and Protestant churches, is not expected until August.

In the closing stages of argument before the court, Mr. D.N. Pritt, who defended the bill for the Kerala government, said that the rights of minorities had to be determined in each local area and that each district or municipality must determine which of its people follow minority languages or religions.

Summing up, the Indian attorney-general, Mr. M.C. Setalvad, opposed Mr. Pritt's definition of a minority and said the idea that "minorities" should be determined in local areas where the educational institutions were established was "unworkable" as it would be "difficult to demarcate the extent of the area". He declared that "minorities" should be defined as those sections of the population who are minorities within the territories of the particular legislating authority - the Union or the State as the case may be.

The Supreme Court bench of seven judges was presided over by the Chief Justice of India.

E.P.S., Geneva

Protestant Radio Work Grows in Cameroons

(Douala, Cameroons) - Opportunities for radio evangelism are reported to be expanding in the Cameroons. The number of radio receivers is rapidly increasing in the towns and the "bush".

With the development of sessions by an African Protestant, the number of Protestant broadcasts has also risen, and now includes a "Question Box", programmes of news and interviews in addition to Sunday worship, and short evening meditations twice a week.

E.P.S., Geneva

"No Attack on DRC Intended" Says Archbishop de Blank

(Johannesburg) - The Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Dr. Joost de Blank, has denied that his recent statements on the apartheid policy of the South African government were intended as an attack on the Dutch Reformed Church (see EPS No. 5).

In a letter to the Information Bureau of the Dutch Reformed Church, the Archbishop says that his criticism "was not of apartheid itself but of its implementation". He says that he "specifically excluded" the Dutch Reformed Church from his criticism by saying that "the outworking of apartheid is not a working policy of a fair and just separation of the races in different areas as conceived and explained by bodies like the South African Bureau of Racial Affairs and the Dutch Reformed Church".

Going on to say that as a result of his article he had been accused of political interference, Dr. de Blank emphasizes that he had to make it clear that "silence could be as much a political attitude as criticism". However, he says he must repeat that his original statement "attempted to justify those who believed in apartheid as a principle to be worked out in practice on equitable and humanitarian lines, and was therefore a defence of, rather than an attack upon, your church".

E.P.S., Geneva

Southern Baptists Challenged on Race

(Houston) - More than 10,000 Southern Baptists, attending their denomination's 101st annual Convention in Houston, Texas, this month, were told by Congressman Brooks Hays, Convention president, that traditional methods of extending help to Negro neighbours would not suffice. Instead, he said, "imagination must accompany our compassion".

Defending the church's Christian Life Commission, criticised by some Southern Baptist congregations, Mr. Hays said: "It would be tragic to assume that we can function as a Christian body without assigning to trusted representatives of the

Convention the task of pointing out our Christian duty with respect to social evils and current conflicts...There should be no reluctance on our part to confront controversy nor should Christians ever flee from the duty of examining differences."

The Convention unanimously adopted a proposal made by Mr. Hays in his presidential address authorising appointment of a committee to report within a year "on what Southern Baptists can do to promote peace and good will in the world".

The Convention has a membership of nearly nine million in forty-two states and Canada.
E.P.S., Geneva

Slow Progress of Canadian Church Union Criticised

(Toronto) - Failure of union discussions between the Anglican Church of Canada and the United Church of Canada has been deplored by the Anglican bishop of Toronto. The Rt. Rev. F.H. Wilkinson told delegates to the 106th annual synod of the Toronto diocese that the proposals for the establishment of a mutually acceptable ministry for the two denominations should have been carried into effect.

"The benefits which would have been realised through such an experimental scheme would have far outweighed any mistakes or difficulties created," he said. Union discussions have been at a standstill for some time but church leaders hope that they may be renewed after this summer's Lambeth Conference in London.

E.P.S., Geneva

Indigenous Churches Called Biggest Missionary Achievement

(Cleveland) - The fact that mission work has been turned over to indigenous churches in India is the greatest accomplishment of Christian missions according to Dr. Theodore C. Seybold, a missionary to India for forty-four years and president of the Raipur Mission of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Speaking in Cleveland, Ohio, at a meeting of the E & R Board of International Missions, Dr. Seybold said that it was "far wiser to help the Indian church to support its own pastorate and build its own church buildings and organisations than to have Americans do it". He said that when he began work at Raipur in 1913, all congregations had missionary pastors. "Today the picture is reversed, with national pastors in charge of congregations and with an active ministry of lay evangelism in the area."

E.P.S., Geneva

US Council Asks Investigation of Bombing

(New York) - President Edwin T. Dahlberg of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA has asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate the "vicious activities" of those responsible for recent bombings of religious institutions in Florida, Alabama and Tennessee.

"The National Council of Churches has noted reports of the bombing of a Negro school and a Jewish centre in Jacksonville, Florida, and the attempted bombing of Temple Beth-El in Birmingham, Alabama," Dr. Dahlberg wired Mr. William P. Rogers, US Attorney General. "These events suggest that there may be concerted action involving people in several states to commit violence against religious institutions and we feel that this situation warrants a thorough investigation by the FBI."

E.P.S., Geneva

YWCA/YMCA Hold European Refugee Consultation

(Mainau) - Fifty-five YMCA and YWCA delegates from fourteen countries held an eight-day consultation this month in Mainau, Germany, on the problem of refugees and called upon their organisations to note the continuing seriousness of the refugee problem.

The consultation promised support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in his camp clearance campaign and reaffirmed the traditional principle of both the YWCA and the YMCA to make their services available without regard to nationality, race, faith or political belief.

Speakers at the consultation included Mr. James Read, deputy UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Dr. Anton Baier, Austrian government official, Mr. Walter Kilpatrick of the Church World Service staff in Greece and Mr. G.E.M. Allard of the World Council of Churches' Austrian staff. E.P.S., Geneva

Hendrik Kraemer Celebrates Seventieth Birthday

(Driebergen, Netherlands) - Hendrik Kraemer, internationally acknowledged expert on oriental religions and Christian missions, was seventy on May 16.

A well-known figure in the ecumenical movement, Professor Kraemer was the first director of the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches at Bossey, near Geneva. Under his guidance between 1947 and 1955 Bossey became a centre of contact for many new experiments in church life and renewal.

Hendrik Kraemer, after early identification with the problems of modern man and the questions posed to the churches by the rise of socialism, went from his native Netherlands to spend twelve years as a lay missionary in Indonesia. While there he served as a language specialist for the Netherlands' Bible Society and played an important part in the early movements of the Indonesian churches towards autonomy. He was afterwards professor of the History of Religion of Leyden and became a key figure in the movements of resistance and political renewal in the Netherlands Reformed Church.

Since 1955 Dr. Kraemer has given all his time to study. He has followed up his large book on "The Christian Message in a Non-Christian World", written for the Tambaram meeting of the International Missionary Council in India in 1938, with a sequel and is now engaged in writing further books on "Worship, Service and Christian Faith", "Communication - Question of the Hour", "Theology for Church Members". A further book on the clash of world cultures and world religions is in preparation. E.P.S., Geneva

In Brief

In the United States the magazines of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches will merge on October 1 to form "The United Church Herald", a bi-weekly magazine of news and opinions of the new United Church of Christ. Combined circulation of "Advance", the Congregational publication, and "The Messenger", will be 150,000.

Archbishop Makarios of the Orthodox Church in Cyprus has been invited by Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury, to attend the Lambeth Conference in London in July. Archbishop Makarios has replied that he may attend and hopes in any case to send a representative.

* *

A leading French Reformed pastor, an Italian Roman Catholic philosopher and a Japanese Buddhist professor spoke at the Brussels World's Fair on May 28 in defence of moral values in the contemporary world. The speakers were Pastor Marc Boegner, president of the Protestant Federation of France and a former president of the World Council of Churches, Professor Felice Battaglia, rector of the University of Bologna, and Professor Daisetz T. Suzuki, formerly of the Tokyo Imperial University.

* *

More than a million persons have seen Missio, a Roman Catholic missionary exhibition which is being shown in large West German cities. Called the most comprehensive exhibit of its kind ever held in Germany, it is sponsored by the Catholic Missionary Council in cooperation with other Catholic religious and lay organisations.

* *

The tenth anniversary of Radio Station DZAS, operated by the Far East Broadcasting Company as "a work of faith existing solely for the purpose of service to God and mankind" will be celebrated near Manila, Philippines, on June 4. A new 50,000 watt transmitter is now being installed to enable the station to broadcast to the Chinese People's Republic.

* *

The Federal Council of the Dutch Reformed Mission Churches in South Africa has decided to join the World Presbyterian Alliance and will send a single representative appointed by all four mission churches to the Alliance's meetings.

* *

A board of trustees, representatives of the five federated Dutch Reformed Churches and the various Dutch Reformed Mission Churches in South Africa, has been established to control the Christian Literature Fund for the Non-Whites of Africa. A sum of £3,000,000 is to be raised for the fund in the next five years.

* *

The Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Dr. Joost de Blank, has accepted an invitation from the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA to tour the United States during June. Although the main purpose of the visit is to raise funds for his Archdiocese, he will also address a meeting in New York on June 18 to help the fund for defendants in the forthcoming treason trial in Pretoria.

* *

At Pretoria, South Africa, at the end of June, 91 Europeans, Africans and coloured defendants will be tried. They were arrested for high treason in December 1956. Legal proceedings against 65 other persons are to be suspended. Among them were several African pastors and a leading member of the Christian Council of South Africa. It is expected that the hearing will be unusually long.

* *

The East German radio has been broadcasting a special Sunday morning series of programmes beginning on May 18 on the subject of "religious views and various superstitions".

* *

Twenty-two delegates from the Protestant "Landeskirche" in the Palatinate, led by Oberkirchenrat Walter Ebrecht of Speyer, recently visited Congregational churches in England. The German guests participated in a service in the Congregational Westminster Chapel, confirming the interchange of ministers and intercommunion agreed upon in 1956.

* *

Eighty-two members of the Russian Orthodox Church have flown from Hong Kong to Los Angeles. They belong to a group of emigrants from North China who are to receive a new home in Brazil, through the help of the World Council of Churches.

* *

At the consecration of the new Church of the Trinity in Warsaw on June 22 sermons will be preached by Lutheran World Federation president, Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, and Dr. Heinrich Hellstern of Zurich, representing the Swiss Reformed Churches. Visitors from abroad will include Bishop Hanns Lilje of Hanover, Archbishop Jaan Kiivit of Tallinn, Estonia, Dr. Carl Lund-Quist, general secretary of the LWF, and Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the WCC.

* *

This year Bishop Otto Dibelius will again be unable to attend a Kirchentag to be held in Potsdam. He has not been able to receive a visa to visit his churches in the German Democratic Republic for over a year.

* *

About 3,500 men liable for military service in Western Germany have registered as conscientious objectors. A representative of the Ministry of Labour explained that the forthcoming "law concerning alternative civilian service" will enable those recognised as genuine conscientious objectors to do a year's service in hospitals and institutions, either alone or in groups, as they choose. The new law also provides for state-organised service-units which will build institutions for social purposes, render help in catastrophes or do general educational work.

* *

The current year-book of the Swiss Roman Catholic Missions deals with "Divided Brethren on the Mission Field". Protestant missionary expert H. Dürr writes on "Protestant Missions Yesterday and Today", Dr. Johannes Beckmann on "The Influence of the Science of Missions on the Relations between the Christian Confessions", and Dr. Walbert Bühlmann, the year-book's editor, on cooperation between Catholics and Protestants. E.P.S., Geneva

A Special Report

Russian Orthodox Church Celebrates Restoration of Moscow Patriarchate

(Moscow) - Leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church and the World Council of Churches will meet in Holland on August 8, 9 and 10 for long-planned conversations (see EPS No. 6). The dates were agreed on during celebrations in Moscow this month marking the fortieth anniversary of the restoration of the Moscow Patriarchate. A definite decision on the town in Holland has not been made.

Metropolitan Nicholai, speaking at a special service at Zagorsk Theological Academy on May 13, said the "Russian Orthodox Church deems it possible to comply with the wishes of the World Council of Churches and meet their leaders, with the aim of an exchange of views on the questions of the usefulness and forms of further contacts. We fully concur with the declaration made by the Orthodox participants at the Evanston Assembly and agree to meet the leaders of the World Council feeling that our all-Orthodox duty is to serve the reunion of all Christians within the Church of Christ."

"This great aim should, in our opinion," the Metropolitan continued, "determine also the general tactics of the national Orthodox churches in their relations with the ecumenical movement. Regarding ourselves as guardians of the spiritual inheritance of the undivided Church of the seven Ecumenical Councils, the Orthodox Church believes that the way to church unity is to understand church life, to join it, and then to use her blessings. This is the significance of the problem raised by the ecumenical movement as our Orthodox Church sees it, and I think that national Orthodox churches should fulfil their duty acting in accordance with their situation and opportunities."

Attending the service were the students of the academy, which is located about seventy kilometers from Moscow, the official delegates and government representatives.

Highlight of the celebration was the service on May 11, in Moscow at the Epiphany Cathedral. Worshippers jammed the Cathedral for the service led by the Patriarch of Antioch, Alexander, the Patriarch of Moscow, Alexei, the Patriarch of Rumania, Justinian, and Catholicos of Georgia, Melchisedek. Also taking part were the heads of the delegation from the churches of Constantinople, Greece, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Finland, Bulgaria and Albania.

A second service was held in Moscow on Ascension Day, May 22, led by the Moscow Patriarch and the delegates from the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Several thousand persons again attended.

Other events during the ten-day celebration included a visit to Leningrad and the theological academy and art museum there, and special services in the present Leningrad cathedral; a banquet given by the government; a reception given by Patriarch Alexei; and visits to many of Moscow's Orthodox churches.

Bishop James, Metropolitan of Melita and representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the World Council of Churches, returned to Geneva on May 26 from Moscow. There are forty Orthodox churches in Moscow today, he said, whereas there once were 500. Two others are being repaired and will be in use in the near future. All services are crowded, Bishop James said, with worshippers standing in crowded churches for three or more hours. More than ninety per cent of those at services are women.

E.P.S., Geneva